

## MORAL LUCK AND INDIAN FICTION

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### Abstract

A term coined by philosopher Bernard Williams, "moral luck" refers to the influence of chance or outside circumstances in judging the morality of a course of action or a person's moral character. By emphasising the impact of factors beyond of an individual's control, it undermines the idea of moral responsibility. Indian authors can examine the complexity of identity and ethics via the fascinating lens of moral luck in the context of Indian fiction. Given the diverse cultural, religious, and social terrain of the Indian subcontinent, identity is a major issue in Indian literature. Indian authors frequently address issues of personal and societal identity, exploring how it is influenced by things like caste, religion, gender, language, and regional ties. These authors explore the complex relationships between identity and the moral decisions people make by incorporating the idea of moral luck.

**Keywords:** Moral Luck, Indian Fiction, Literature.

### Introduction

The intricate relationship between moral luck and identity can be explored in great detail in Indian literature. Indian authors explore issues of moral obligation, ethics, and the impact of outside forces on personal decisions in their storytelling. By underlining the influence of cultural, historical, and societal influences on identity and moral agency, they cast doubt on accepted ideas of morality.

We learn more about the complex connections between identity, ethics, and the human experience by analysing the idea of moral luck in the context of Indian fiction. Even if no agreement has been achieved on what exactly constitutes Indianness or the Indian ethos, the question of the identity of Indian English fiction or the broad genre of Indian English literature (also known as Indian Writing in English) has been discussed in a number of forums. People have occasionally even questioned the necessity of this given that we never debate the Britishness of English literature or the Americanness of American literature.

They wonder if it is shyness that drives Indians to look for an identity for Indian English literature. Given that English is the second language of the majority of Indians while also being the language of the powerful elite and the upwardly mobile middle class, both of whom are eager for their children to learn it as their first language, the question of the Indianness or identity of Indian English literature becomes rather significant.

The problem of identity has been examined in terms of Indian English Fiction (IEF) in this study because this genre makes up the majority of Indian English Literature. Who to include in this group is the first problem to be solved with reference to the Indianness of Indian English fiction. Is it fiction written by Indians residing in India or also elsewhere? Whether to exclusively include first-generation writers who are based overseas or to also include later generations? What about translations made from a regional language into English, whether they were made by the author themselves or by someone else? What about writing created by foreigners that is about India? On the other hand, shouldn't we also include Indian literature that features characters, circumstances, or themes that are tied to another community or culture?

### 1. The Influence of Cultural and Historical Contexts

The diversity of Indian society and its nuanced historical background are reflected in Indian fiction. The impact of cultural and historical context on individual and societal identities and moral decisions is explored by writers. They explore the ethical assumptions woven into societal norms, rituals, and traditions while debating whether or not people have power over their ethical choices in these settings.

### 2. Intersectionality and Moral Agency

Indian writers explore the intersections between moral agency and identity markers including caste, class, and gender. They look at how social structures

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and dynamics of power affect moral decisions and deeds. Writers emphasise the diverse levels of moral luck that people experience depending on their social station by introducing characters with different social identities.

### **3. Moral Conundrums and Ethical Choices**

Indian fiction frequently has morally conflicted individuals, whose decisions are shaped by their identities and the situations in which they find themselves. Indian authors investigate the moral luck involved in such circumstances, questioning whether a person's moral worth is dependent on outside conditions that are beyond their control.

### **4. Morality and the Fluidity of Identity**

Indian literature questions the idea that identities are static and fundamental by featuring individuals whose identities change and develop through time. The impact of shifting identities and environments on moral judgements and behaviour is explored by writers. They argue whether moral luck is predetermined or if it may be changed by introspection and personal development.

## **Literature Review**

2017's Angshuman [1]; The authenticity of depictions of the "real" problems of Indian diasporans in diaspora fiction has frequently been questioned by critics because, ten or twelve years ago, the majority of diasporic Indian writers frequently reduced the challenges of acculturation to the challenge of learning local manners and customs. Famous Indian diaspora authors like Jhumpa Lahiri & Kiran Desai did not address the racial, ethnic, and religious issues that Indian diasporic populations face in their host nations. However, post-9/11 developments, particularly in the US, have prompted certain writers from the Indian diaspora to address these themes. The *Disappearance of Seth* (2009) by Kazim Ali, *Transmission* (2004) by Hari Kunzru, and *Ask Me No Questions* (2007) by Marina Budhos all highlight the racialized nature of the US and the post-9/11 hate crimes committed against Muslims and South Asians/Southeast Asians in particular. It's interesting to note that, in contrast to Budhos, Ali, and Kunzru, the major figures in Indian English diaspora literature continue to remain silent on subjects that can be off-putting, particularly to readers in the host countries. This essay will analyse who is shedding illumination on the alternative aspect of the moon as well as the reasons by concentrating on all three novels stated above. By doing this, it will focus on the novels' level of involvement with the events immediately following 9/11 rather than how they occur in chronological order.

(2019) Hartman [4]; When circumstances beyond a person's control influence how much credit or blame they receive, this is referred to as moral luck. The cause of lack of control, such as the outcomes of her activities, the environment in which she discovers herself, and the nature of her being, distinguishes distinct types of moral luck. Many philosophers agree that some of these types of moral luck exist, but reject the presence of others because, in their opinion, recognising only some of these traits would be unfair to morality. However, I contend that this middle ground is unstable because morality is either fair in a way that excludes consequential, circumstantial, and essential moral luck (which gives rise to doubts about moral responsibility), or uprightness is unfair in a way that allows for the possibility of those types of moral luck.

As a result, these intermediary techniques lack the drive that their supporters have long believed they possess. I discuss how morality is unjust in the appendix with regard to the parameters of moral duty, moral obligation, morally taint, being a good or evil person, and flourishing. I have proposed that different middle views on the moral fortune debate—that is, places that acknowledge some types of moral luck but reject others—are not motivated by the ideal of equality as there is no moral justification that is pertinent to fairness for acknowledging some types of moral luck while denying others.

## **Analysis**

The narrative gains depth and realism as it examines the diverse array of languages, faiths, celebrations, and The study of moral luck and its relationship to identity in Indian fiction goes hand in hand with an investigation of history's tremendous influence on forming both individual and societal moral choices. Indian authors explore the nuanced interactions between moral fortune, identity, and historical circumstances, producing stories that highlight the many ethical facets of the Indian experience.

### **1. Historical Context and Moral Luck**

The various historical circumstances that have shaped the Indian subcontinent are reflected in Indian fiction. The moral luck ingrained in historical occurrences like colonisation, independence wars, and social reform movements is explored by writers. They focus on how historical conditions affect identity development and moral judgements, illuminating the challenges of resolving moral conundrums in particular historical situations.

### **2. Historical Injustices and Identity**

Caste prejudice, religious strife, and socioeconomic inequality are just a few examples of the historical

injustices that Indian authors address. They feature characters who struggle with the inherited effects of historical occurrences, raising concerns on how much these injustices define a person's identity and moral agency. These stories examine the ways in which historical legacies can either limit or provide opportunities for moral action.

Collective identity and historical memory are two topics that are explored in Indian fiction in relation to moral luck. A group's perspective of its own moral status and the moral decisions it must make are influenced by historical events, according to writers. They explore the intricacies of historical narratives, the conflicts between remembering and forgetting, and the creation of collective identities based on past events.

Indian authors dispute the predominate historical narratives by presenting alternate viewpoints and rethinking historical events in their works titled "Rewriting History and Moral Reckoning." They explore the moral luck present in historical accounts through fictional reconstructions, uncovering undiscovered tales and underrepresented voices. These narratives stimulate a critical analysis of inherited moral judgements and present opportunities for moral reckoning by re-examining history through the prism of moral luck.

Indian fiction explores the connections between cultural memory and ethics by examining how historical experiences and identities influence ethical thought and judgement. Writers examine how oral tradition, ritual, and creative representations convey cultural memory and how this affects moral principles and behaviour. They emphasise how moral luck is passed down through generations and how historical narratives continue to influence moral judgements.

An in-depth understanding of the interactions between identity, history, and ethics can be gained from the investigation of moral luck in the setting of Indian fiction. Indian authors explore the moral implications of personal and social experiences by navigating the intricacies of historical conditions and inherited moral luck. Indian fiction stimulates readers' reflection on the complex interrelationship between moral decisions, identity development, and the historical forces that shape them by challenging historical events, recreating tales, and evaluating the effects of historical injustices.

## **Conclusion**

The study of moral luck and its relationship to identity in Indian fiction is inextricably linked to the aesthetics used by Indian authors. Indian authors

negotiate the difficulties of moral decisions and the creation of unique and group identities through the use of literary devices, imagery, and storytelling customs. Examining the interaction between moral luck and identity via the prism of Indian fiction offers an interesting perspective.

Indian authors frequently use narrative strategies that introduce moral ambiguity, forcing readers to consider issues of moral responsibility and self-identification. Writers can convey a range of perspectives and challenge readers' ethical judgements by using techniques like nonlinear narrative, numerous perspectives, and unreliable narrators. Readers are prompted to consider the complicated interrelationship between moral decisions, identity, and the function of luck as a result of engaging with this narrative complexity.

## **1. Metaphor and Symbolism**

In Indian fiction, the use of metaphor and symbolism deepens the investigation of moral luck and identity. To illustrate the difficulties of ethical decision-making and its effects on individual and societal identity, authors use evocative imagery. Symbolic components frequently make use of cultural and mythological allusions to enhance the narrative and link the characters' moral quandaries to larger cultural and historical settings.

The examination of moral luck and identity is given a special artistic dimension by the language diversity of India, which is mirrored in Indian fiction. Regional languages, dialects, and code-switching are used by authors to depict the intricacies of various identities and the moral decisions they must make. This linguistic variety gives characters more authenticity and enables a more complex understanding of the relationship between language, identity, and moral agency.

Indian fiction frequently engages with and references a variety of literary, historical, and philosophical texts. This is known as intertextuality. This intertextual interaction enhances the aesthetic depth of the stories and offers a wider cultural backdrop for the investigation of moral judgement and identity. Writers emphasise the interdependence of moral decisions, cultural values, and the variety of identities that form them by weaving together many textual traditions.

## **2. Emotional Resonance and Ethical Inquiry**

Indian fiction's aesthetics arouse strong emotional reactions and encourage in-depth ethical inquiry. Writers provide readers an immersive experience by utilising descriptive descriptions, sensory details, and compelling narrative. Because of this immersive nature, readers may empathise with the moral

choices made by the characters, which promotes reflection and the analysis of one's own moral standards in connection to luck and identity.

Indian fiction's aesthetics have a big part to play in examining the complex relationships between identity and moral luck. Indian authors craft engaging and thought-provoking narratives using narrative strategies, symbolism, linguistic diversity, intertextuality, and emotional resonance. This aesthetics encourage readers to consider the difficulties of moral decisions, how luck shapes identity, and the ethical aspects of the human experience. A potent vehicle for examining the complex interactions between moral luck, identity, and the manner in which they are created and perceived is the aesthetics of Indian fiction.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that there are no significant competing financial, professional, or personal interests that might have influenced the performance or presentation of the work described in this manuscript.

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